A NEW MESEMBRINE FLY.

BY FREDERICK KNAB,

Bureau of Entomology, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

The closest allies of the fly here described generally have been included in the genus *Mesembrina*. In 1908 Townsend divided the old genus, dismembering it into *Mesembrina*, *Metamesembrina* and *Eumesembrina*, with the following species as respective types: *M. mystacea* L., *M. meridiana* L., *M. latreillei* Rob.-Desv. (Smiths. Misc. Colls., vol. 51, p. 124). In 1911 Schnabl and Dziedzicki, without knowing Townsend's work, separated *M. mystacea* and *M. meridiana* generically, proposing for the latter the generic name *Neomesembrina* (Die Anthomyiden. Nova Acta, Kais.-Leop.-Car. Deutsch. Akad. d. Naturf., vol. 95, p. 226). *M. meridiana* having been already designated as the type of *Mesembrina* by Westwood in 1840, *Metamesembrina* Towns, and *Neomesembrina* Schnabl and Dziedz. fall as synonyms. Townsend, having discovered the error in nomenclature, in 1912 proposed the generic name *Hypodermodes* with *M. mystacea* as the type (Proc. Ent. Soc. Wash., vol. 14, p. 46). The following new species is congeneric and closely related with *Hypodermodes mystacea* (L.) of Europe, and apparently still nearer the Asiatic *H. decipiens* of Loew (Beschr. europ. Dipt., vol. 2, p. 239; 1871).

Hypodermodes solitaria, new species.

Female.—Head black, the frons about one-third the width of the head; parafacials yellowish-silvery pruinose. Antennæ black at base, the second joint ferruginous, the third deep brown, reddish at base; thickened portion of arista ferruginous. Palpi ferruginous yellow, with numerous short black bristles and a few long ones interspersed.

Mesonotum and scutellum clothed entirely with dull reddish yellow pile, the discal macrochætæ also yellowish, the peripheral ones black. Pleuræ black, the vestiture black, one specimen with some yellowish hairs below wing-base. Sternopleural bristles: 1 - 0.1.

Abdomen black, the proximal portion covered with short black pile, the last two segments above and beneath with long reddish

yellow pile, somewhat brighter coloured than that on the mesonotum and scutellum.

Legs entirely black; claws ferruginous on the thickened basal portion, black distally; pulvilli yellowish brown.

Wings with the venation similar to *H. mystacea*, the apical cell at extreme tip of wing. Last section of the fourth vein very slightly less upward bent than in that species. Basal portion of the wing to the tip of the subcostal vein and the base of the apical cell bright yellow, the veins in that portion ferruginous yellow; portion beyond light grey, clouded with brown in the costal region and along the veins, the veins themselves black. Tegulæ yellow, with deep yellow margin and yellow ciliation.

Length: Body about 14 mm., wing 12.5 mm.

Two specimens: High River, Alberta (T. Baird); Glacier Park, Montana, June 28, 1912 (J. R. Parker). Type and paratype in the collections of the U. S. National Museum and the Montana Agricultural College.

The specimen recorded by Prof. Hine from Lake Timagami, Ontario, under the name *Mesembrina mystacea* (Can. Ent., vol. 39, p. 98; 1907), evidently belongs to the species here characterized. The present form differs from *mystacea* particularly in the coloration of the thoracic vestiture and of the tegulæ, that species having the vestiture on the posterior part of the mesonotum and on the scutellum black, and furthermore dark brown tegulæ with black ciliation. *H. solitaria* agrees much more closely with *H. decipiens*. That species also has the mesonotum and scutellum clothed entirely with yellowish pile and the tegulæ yellow. In *decipiens* the last two abdominal segments are clothed with yellowish white pile and the hairs on the cheeks are dirty white. The whitish abdominal hairs, as against their deep yellow colour in our form, can hardly be considered a specific character, since Loew (l. c.) has already pointed out that the colour of this pile is variable in *H. mystacea;* the difference in the colour of the cheek vestiture, being black in our species, must, however, be considered specific.